

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 050523
ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 050523

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EGEN, SHUM, PL

SUBJECT: POLISH AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON ARMITAGE

1. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR TRAMPCZYNSKI MET WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE MARCH 4, PRIMARILY TO PASS ON SOME IMPRESSIONS FROM HIS RECENT TRIP TO WARSAW. HE GAVE RATHER UPBEAT REPORT ON CURRENT SITUATION IN POLAND, SAID GIEREK'S AMNESTY SPEECH HAD DEFUSED DISSIDENTS' SITUATION, AND ASKED FOR ANY INFORMATION WE CAN PROVIDE ON RECENT RECORD OF POLES' HANDLING OF DIVIDED FAMILIES PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

2. CURRENT SITUATION IN POLAND: TRAMPCZYNSKI EXPRESSED MODERATE SATISFACTION WITH WHAT HE HAD SEEN IN WARSAW. PARTY LEADERS NOW HAD MORE CONFIDENCE IN THEIR BEING ABLE TO MANAGE THE MANY PROBLEMS "BUT STILL NOT ENOUGH CONFIDENCE." HE WAS SATISFIED THAT FOOD STOCKS IN STORES WERE
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ADEQUATE, IF NOT TOP QUALITY, ALTHOUGH SUPPLIES OF PORK AND GOOD CUTS OF BEEF NOT UP TO DEMAND. FOREIGN TRADE FIGURES FOR JAN. AND FEB. WERE BETTER THAN FOR SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR: IMPORTS WERE BEING KEPT DOWN TO PLANNED LEVEL AND EXPORTS WERE NOT MORE THAN FEW PERCENTAGE POINTS BEHIND WHAT HAD BEEN HOPED FOR. GOOD HARVEST THIS SUMMER WOULD OF COURSE RELIEVE SOME PRESSURE ON ECONOMY; HOWEVER, BASIC

PROBLEMS LIKE THAT OF LOW LEVEL OF PRODUCTIVITY REMAINED SERIOUS. TRAMPCZYNSKI CITED NEED TO KEEP LEVEL OF NEW INVESTMENT RELATIVELY LOW AND TO FREEZE WAGES. TWO MOST POSITIVE SIGNS HE HAD SEEN WERE MARKED INCREASE IN LEVEL OF SAVINGS AND ABSENCE OF ANY STRIKES OR LAY-OFFS. RE-ORGANIZATION OF AGRICULTURE WAS ONE OF BIGGEST, MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEMS FOR POLAND, TRAMPCZYNSKI SAID. CONSOLIDATION INTO LARGER AGRICULTURAL UNITS WAS PROVING ESPECIALLY HARD IN EAST, WHERE MOST LAND WAS IN PRIVATE HANDS; SOMEWHAT LESS TROUBLESOME IN WESTERN TERRITORIES, WHERE THERE WERE MORE STATE FARMS. PEASANTS REMAINED SUSPICIOUS OF CHANGE, DESPITE GOVERNMENT'S EXPRESSED INTENTION OF AIDING INCREASE IN PRIVATE PRODUCTION. TRAMPCZYNSKI AGREED WITH ARMITAGE THAT NEW POLICY OF ENCOURAGING PRIVATE ENTERPRISE APPEARED PARTICULARLY PROMISING FOR CITIES, WHERE SMALL BUSINESSES COULD GIVE CONSIDERABLE BOOST TO ECONOMY AND TO CONSUMER MORALE.

3. SOVIET ECONOMIC PACKAGE: TRAMPCZYNSKI MERELY REPEATED WHAT HE HAD TOLD US MUCH EARLIER (STATE 300349 DEC. 76). HE CONFIRMED THE ONE BILLION RUBLE FIGURE. HE SAID SOVIETS HAD AGREED TO VERY COMPLICATED ARRANGEMENT, NOT CORRECTLY TO BE TERMED "AID". IT INVOLVED SOVIET PAYMENT IMMEDIATELY UPON DELIVERY FOR POLISH EQUIPMENT TO BE INSTALLED IN JOINT PROJECTS IN SOVIET UNION, PRINCIPALLY CELLULOSE AND ASBESTOS PLANTS. IN PAST, POLES HAD RECEIVED PAYMENT ONLY OUT OF PRODUCTION FROM JOINT PROJECTS, I.E., YEARS AFTER DELIVERY.
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4. DISSIDENTS: TRAMPCZYNSKI CLAIMED WORKERS DEFENSE COMMITTEE HAD BEEN LEFT ESSENTIALLY WITHOUT A CAUSE SINCE GIEREK'S SPEECH OFFERING AMNESTY TO REPENTANT ARRESTED WORKERS. HE HAD HEARD THAT HARD CORE OF ABOUT TWENTY, "ALL WITH CRIMINAL RECORDS" PRIOR TO JUNE RIOTS, WERE STILL IN PRISON AND PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE PARDONED. HE STRESSED CONFLICTING PRESSURES ON GIEREK--ELEMENTS FAVORING CONTINUED TOLERANCE OF DEGREE OF DISSIDENT ACTIVITY OPPOSED BY STRONG FORCES CALLING FOR FIRM TREATMENT OF DISSIDENTS. TRAMPCZYNSKI APPEARED TO PUT OLSZOWSKI IN FIRST CAMP, CLEARLY PUT RADIO-TELEVISION CHIEF SZCZEPANSKI IN SECOND. ARMITAGE ASKED WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ANY REACTION TO CHARTER 77 ACTIONS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. TRAMPCZYNSKI ANSWERED NO; ONLY POLISH LEADERSHIP AND INTELLIGENTSIA KNEW ABOUT MATTER.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS: TRAMPCZYNSKI NOTED THAT GIEREK HAD REFERRED TO U.S. INITIATIVES ON HUMAN RIGHTS WHEN HE

MET WITH FIRST SECRETARY. TRAMPCZYNSKI DID NOT REFLECT

ANY DEEP CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE IMPACT OF THESE INITIATIVES IN POLAND. HE INDICATED OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WOULD SUFFER ONLY IF U.S. ACTIONS WERE TO PROVOKE SOVIET REACTION AWAY FROM DETENTE; REMARKED THAT SOVIETS HAD IMPRESSION OUR HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN WAS DIRECTED ONLY AGAINST THEM. ARMITAGE REVIEWED UNIVERSAL ASPECT OF U.S. POLICY IN THIS FIELD.

6. DIVIDED FAMILIES: ARMITAGE ASKED FOR READING OF POLISH LEADERSHIP'S VIEWS ON POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENT IN HANDLING U.S.-POLISH DIVIDED FAMILIES CASES. POLISH AMBASSADOR SAID HE HAD NO NEW INFORMATION, MERELY COULD OFFER HIS IMPRESSION THAT MORE LIBERAL TREATMENT WAS BEING GIVEN AT LEAST TO CASES INVOLVING CLOSE FAMILY MEMBERS. HE ASKED FOR ANY INFORMATION WE COULD PROVIDE CONFIDENTIAL

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HIM. ARMITAGE PROMISED TO GIVE HIM OUR OWN EVALUATION.

ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE FORWARD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE COPY OF COMPREHENSIVE LISTING OF DIVIDED FAMILY CASES WITH CURRENT STATUS TO BEST OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE.

ON SCORE OF REPATRIATION OF ETHNIC GERMANS, TRAMPCZYNSKI COMMENTED THAT POLAND'S RELATIONS WITH FRG HAD WORSENERED RECENTLY, PARTLY BECAUSE OF POLEMICS OF WEST GERMAN PRESS, BUT THAT MEMBERS OF GERMAN MINORITY CONTINUED TO LEAVE POLAND AT HIGH RATE.

7. JEWISH PROBLEMS: ARMITAGE NOTED THAT RABBI ALEXANDER SCHINDLER WAS ANXIOUS TO GET RESPONSE TO HIS REQUESTS FROM LAST FALL (AUSCHWITZ MEMORIAL TO THE JEWISH DEAD, ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS ON JEWISH HERITAGE, PAYMENTS FOR JEWISH PENSIONERS, REPAYMENT FOR FORMER JEWISH COMMUNITY PROPERTY IN POLAND). TRAMPCZYNSKI ADMITTED HE HAD NOT SPOKEN TO "THE RIGHT PEOPLE" IN WARSAW ON THESE SUBJECTS BUT SAID HE HAD SENT TELEGRAM TO MFA DAY BEFORE, ASKING FOR STATUS REPORT. HE KNEW THAT A JEWISH ORGANIZATION IN PHILADELPHIA WOULD BE OFFERED MATERIALS ON CERTAIN JEWISH SECT. ALSO, HE COULD REPORT THAT JEWISH BARRACK AT AUSCHWITZ WAS TO BE RESTORED AND THAT JEWISH COMMUNITY IN WARSAW WOULD BE INVOLVED IN PLANNING FOR MEMORIAL THERE.

8. PYKA VISIT TO U.S.: TRAMPCZYNSKI SAID PYKA WANTED TO COME HERE END OF MAY OR EARLY JUNE TO SPEND PERHAPS NOT MORE THAN DAY IN WASHINGTON, THEN ON TO CHICAGO AND ELSEWHERE, PRIMARILY TO VISIT FOOD-PROCESSING PLANTS. PYKA EXPECTED TO COME WITH MINISTER OF FOOD INDUSTRY AND

PURCHASE AND TWO HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS FROM MINISTRY OF
DOMESTIC TRADE AND SERVICES. TRAMPCZYNSKI BELIEVED THAT

HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD FIND IT AWKWARD TO SEND SOMEONE AT
PYKA'S LEVEL UNDER U.S.-FINANCED PROGRAM.

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COMMENT: WE WILL WELCOME YOUR RESPONSE TO STATE 032378
WHICH DEALS WITH THIS QUESTION.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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